

"LAUGH A LITTLE BIT."

Here's a motto, just your bit:
"Laugh a little bit."
When you think you're trouble-bit,
"Laugh a little bit."
Look misfortune in the face,
Brave the belian's rude grimace;
Ten to one 'twill yield its place
If you have the grit and wit
Just to laugh a little bit.

Keep your face with sunshine lit—
"Laugh a little bit."
Gloomy shadows off will flit
If you have the wit and grit
Just to laugh a little bit.

Cherish this as sacred writ:
"Laugh a little bit."
Little ills will sure betide you,
Fortune may not sit beside you,
Men may mock and fume deride you,
But you'll find them not a whit
If you laugh a little bit.

—St. Nicholas.

"ON THE BAY."

Leading her pretty bay a few hundred feet from the road, then to a little hillock, Edna Graust flung one arm carelessly around her horse's neck and gazed slowly about. She drew in deep breaths of the crisp morning air and noted with a keen, silent, still sort of pleasure the signs of approaching spring. At her feet and about her little tufts and patches of dead grass peeped up here and there above the partially melted snow, like dingy oases in a desert of glittering white.

Edna was a gay, spirited girl, but at times, in solitude, her love of nature threw a glow of sombre enthusiasm over her face instead of the usual levity. Turning her eyes once more toward the road, she beheld the brightness of the sunlit road, clouded and obscured by the gloomy shade of a slowly moving funeral procession.

Only an instant before the bounding blood in her veins the breath of spring in the air had suggested naught but life. Now, with a shiver, its complement, death, threw its shadow upon her heart.

Edna closed her eyes, pressed her hand over them and leaned in a subdued attitude with her face on her horse's neck.

"Life—Death! Life—Death!" Such is the burden of human breath, came in the deep bass of a manly voice, so near that she started violently and opened her eyes. Quick as a flash the softened look vanished from her face, giving way to an angry pout.

"Why can I never be alone for an instant but that you must come to annoy me?" she exclaimed.

"Ladylike, as usual," returned the man whose tall, stately figure and strong, though not handsome, face should have elicited a kinder or at least more respectful greeting. "Seeing you wrapped in a lofty reverie, I left my buggy on the road, quietly walked here, read your thoughts and supplemented them with a strain on the same subject."

"You are a wicked wizard! How dare you say what I was thinking of?" she snapped.

Apparently heedless of her anger, he smiled in calm superiority and answered:

"That only adds another to the list of sweet names that out of the fullness of your amiability, you have bestowed on me. 'Wicked wizard,' that is not so bad—'W. W.' It reminds me of an inscription on an old tombstone—

"Here lies W. W., Who will nevermore trouble you, trouble you."

"I wish you would follow his example then," said she, spitefully.

"I could not lie," he retorted; "I am not built that way! I am constructed with timbers of truth, joists of candor, boards of honor, screws of integrity and nails of common sense."

"Spare me," she cried satirically, "from further eulogium of the great 'I Am,' and, scolding his proffered aid, she sprang to her horse."

"Farewell, I am off for a sail on the bay," she cried pettily. Then, touching her horse and waving her hand, she dashed off.

Edna cantered up the avenue to her home, jumped from her horse and darted into the house, almost running against a mid-eyed, silk attired, elderly lady, who greeted her with:

"Why, my pet, how flushed you look! Has anything gone wrong?"

"That horrid Dr. Graham!" cried the impetuous girl. "He always rubs me the wrong way and rouses my temper. 'Come, auntie,' throwing her arms around her neck and drawing her to a lounge, 'come, coax, pet and talk nice to me. Tell me how good I am and everything sweet. I need it badly, for the old bird has done nothing but scold and find fault with me. He thinks himself so fearfully superior and me simply a silly, ignorant, pert miss. Oh! how I hate him ever since he made me take that nasty medicine when I was sick. No one else ever forced me to do anything against my will!"

"Edna," said the lady, much more gravely than was her wont, "it pains me to hear you speak so of the doctor. I know no man more truly honorable, intelligent and ambitious. He stands high in his profession, has written several valuable medical works and though comparatively young has won and enviable name and fortune."

"Comparatively young," said the still unappeased girl; "he is double my age."

"But you are only 18, and even double that does not make him very aged. Though he may occasionally chide, still he is very fond of you and I know desires nothing better than to make you his wife."

"He does the unladylike tomboy far too much honor to even dream of such a thing, but aforesaid tomboy declines his generous offer with thanks," responded Edna with satirical humility.

"Oh, auntie," she continued, her voice softening and nestling closer to

her, "I think I love Alphonso and he wildly adores me. Just think of those lovely, luminous eyes of his and that darling curly mustache. He is really irresistible."

"Yet, my sweet child, you are worthy of the love of the best man living, but I am somewhat of a physiognomist, and I do not feel the enthusiastic confidence in your cavalier that I could admire. You are known, dear, as my heiress, and I fear that Alphonso is attracted by the golden bait."

"You are cruel, unjust, unkind," sobbed the girl; "he worships me. I am sure no mercenary thought ever entered his head. You ought to hear the beautiful, poetical way he talks to me."

"Put him to the test, Edna, and if he proves true, then I will be the first to interest myself in his advancement."

"How shall I do it?" questioned the girl. "I will follow your advice, but for my own part I will not wrong him by the shadow of a doubt."

Her aunt thought a moment and then said:

"I do not like to teach you to tell a falsehood, but in this case I think the end justifies the means. I do not want him to know you will be rich, so this evening, if he calls you might, in the course of conversation, casually remark that I have made a will bequeathing my entire fortune to several charitable institutions, but that, in case of your marriage, I will provide a trousseau—nothing more."

"Agreed," said Edna, and left the room.

That evening the mellow light from the chandelier filled the richly furnished room and fell on the pretty, girlish form of Edna seated at the piano, singing in her sweet, bird-like voice, "In the Gloaming."

At her side stood a handsome, stylishly dressed youth who gazed at her in a rapt ecstasie way and turned her music with an air deferential in the extreme. At the close of the ballad she turned to him and said carelessly:

"Did I ever tell you about auntie's queer will?"

"No—I think not," said he, pretending to hesitate, but the quick gleam of interest that leaped to his eyes belied his tone.

"She is leaving all her money to some charitable institutions. I think it is very good of her, don't you?"

Much as Edna tried to blind herself, she could not fail to see that his face had lengthened considerably, and it was in doleful tones that he inquired:

"Did you not expect to be remembered?"

"Oh, no," she answered; "I could not expect it. She has done so much for me already, has always supported and educated me and will provide me with an outfit if," with a little blush, "I were to marry."

Somehow the conversation flagged after this disclosure, and not long after Alphonso, with the most elaborate courtesy, took his departure.

When three weeks had elapsed without a call from her Adonia, Edna acknowledged her aunt's wisdom and said, with a nervous little laugh:

"Who would think that so much deceit could lodge behind those melting eyes? Why, they were like the loveliest chocolate caramels."

"I am rejoiced to hear you take it so lightly," returned her aunt tenderly. "I think your vanity rather than your heart is hurt."

"I think so too; but if you only knew how unutterably, infinitesimally small it makes me feel. I know now that my personal valuation is nothing."

"Do not think it," interrupted her aunt hastily. "Only yesterday Dr. Graham, the wealthiest man I know, spoke of his love for you and anxiously inquired if I thought you were fancy free."

"Is he too, looking for some of your money?" asked Edna, bitterly.

"Try him. He will bear any test," said her aunt.

"I will do it just to satisfy you," answered Edna indifferently, "though I have as little faith in him as in his medicine."

So it happened, during the doctor's next visit, after some of the usual wordy warfare that Edna repeated her little formula and added that she would like to be independent, and meant to look about her for something to do. Could he help her to find a position?

Edna's eyes gleamed maliciously as she thought what a triumph she would have over her aunt when she announced that the doctor was as little in love as Alphonso, only adding to the insult by offering to patronize her. Then she said very demurely:

"I might take a place as lady's maid, a child's governess, or possibly that of companion."

The doctor regarded her contemptuously a time, then said:

"I think I can help you if you are equal to all the requirements; for I know a person who needs a companion."

"What would be necessary?" asked Edna, in a voice fairly trembling with suppressed mirth and a little anger.

"In the first place, the person I refer to is subject to various moods. Could you play gay, solemn or plaintive music to charm the different humors?"

"Yes," said Edna. "I think I may safely say I play well almost any kind of piece."

"Secondly, the person has a terrible habit of tearing off buttons. Are you or are you not handy with your needles?" The doctor's voice waxed stern on the delivery of this important question. Again Edna answered, affirming her ability to perform the necessary task.

"Lastly," said the doctor, rising and approaching her, "the one great requirement that far outweighs all others, and one that the person craves for with all his heart, with all his

strength, is that you love him a little."

He held out his hand to her with a look of love so intense and passionate that Edna almost staggered before it, and her heart thrilled strangely in response. She closed her eyes and pressed her hand over them, an old trick of hers when in thought.

The man stood patient and motionless. Minute after minute passed, till at last Edna moved. Advancing, she placed both hands in his, and with a tender smile illuminating her face, whispered:

"Take me."

OUR SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS.

Civilization, Development and Culture Compare Well With Ours.

"The South American systems of education have been framed upon the plan of ours and in several of them even more radical measures have been adopted to increase the intelligence of the people," says William Elroy Curtis in an article on "The Progress of the South American Republics" in the New England Magazine. "Their universities are of a standard that compare well with any in this country, and in most of the republics the attendance of children at the public schools is compulsory. They have more newspapers in proportion to their population than we have, and some of their periodicals are of a high order; they encourage art and music, and every city has its museums and galleries of paintings. Their shops are filled with the most modern articles of merchandise; the homes of the rich are sumptuously furnished, and their incomes are expended for luxuries to the degree of extravagance. The steamships that connect their ports with Europe are always crowded with passengers, but the lack of transportation facilities has prevented them from visiting the United States as frequently and in as great numbers. The national debts of the Latin American republics have been incurred for the purpose of constructing railways and other internal improvements, which in several of them have certainly anticipated the necessities of the population and become burdens upon the public treasuries. But in most of them immigration from Europe is rapid and permanent, and the development of natural resources will soon enable the railway lines to become self-supporting."

Two men were watching a parade of uniformed men from the window of a hotel.

"Men in uniform all look alike," said one of them. "It is our clothes and manner of wearing them that give an individuality to our appearance."

"Yes, you are right," said the other, "as I had good reason to know one day last summer. I was up in Wisconsin on a hunting trip. I have a hunting dog that is also a splendid watch-dog. One day, having grown hot and tired, I came to a nice shady bend in the stream where I thought I would enjoy a swim. While I was in the water I noticed that my dog was standing guard over my personal effects. Completing my bath I started toward my clothes, when my dog gave me warning that it would be dangerous for me to approach too closely. I called and coaxed and threatened, but all in vain. He boldly stood his ground, seeming to be fully convinced that I was not the rightful owner of the property he was watching over. I might have been there yet waiting to get my clothes had not a companion with whom I was hunting come along and enabled me to assume my usual appearance, so that my own faithful dog recognized me. The clothes do make the man."

"I've heard that story before," said the first.

"Well, why didn't you say so before I told it?"

"I didn't know it till you told it."

Surgery in Japan.

Surgical operations are very successful in Japan, and the healing process is rapid, owing probably to the abstemiousness of the people from alcohol and their not being flesh eaters. The Japanese are unsusceptible to scarlet fever and smallpox, which was rife among them having been checked and almost exterminated by voluntary vaccination. The mortality of Tokio, a vast city which covers 100 square miles of ground, is only 20 per 1,000. The infant mortality is high, owing to the too early exposure of new-born children. It is not unusual to see a week-old baby strapped on the back of a child of about 8, and sent out to be jumbled about as its infant nurse plays and romps with other children in the street. The Japanese like the Chinese, are subject to a peculiar disease in which the patient is the victim of an increasing lethargy and weakness, and a slow degeneration of the nervous system. It is said to be due to eating rice, which is the staple food of the country, and can be ameliorated, if not cured, by a change of diet.—Saturday Evening Post.

She Tried Them.

Mrs. Young Husband: "Dear, you will have to give me \$10 extra this week." Mr. Young Husband: "Why, Clara! Did I not give you the necessary amount, \$18? That is \$3 a day."

Mrs. Young Husband: "Yes, but I have been trying some of those recipes published in the papers for keeping a family on \$6 a week."—Kate Field's Washington.

Tommy's Tottit.

Tommy (inquiringly): "Mamma, is this hair-oil in this bottle?" Mamma: "Morey, no! That's muckilage." Tommy (nonchalantly): "I guess that's why I can't get my hat off."—Good News.

THE YEAR.

How the Present Calendar Was Arranged and Adopted.

Originally the Romans are said to have had a year of ten months but in the time of their kings they adopted a lunar year of 353 days divided into twelve months with an extra month occasionally inserted.

Through the ignorance of those having charge of the matter, according to the Saturday Evening Post, a great deal of confusion gradually arose, which was remedied in 45 B. C. by Julius Caesar, by the introduction of the Julian calendar, according to which the year has ordinarily 365 days, and every fourth year is a leap year of 366 days—the length of the year being thus assumed as 365 1/4 days, while it is in reality 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 50 seconds, or 11 minutes 10 seconds less.

Caesar also gave to the months the number of days which they still have. For a long time this style of reckoning time prevailed among Christian nations, and remained undisturbed until the renewed accumulation of the remaining error of 11 minutes or so had amounted, in 1582 years after the birth of Christ to 10 complete days.

This shifting had caused great disturbances by unfixing the times of the celebration of Easter and hence of all the other movable feasts.

To remedy the trouble Pope Gregory XIII. ordained that ten days should be deducted from the year 1582, by calling what would have been reckoned the 5th of October the 15th of October, 1582; and in order that the displacement might not recur, it was further ordained that every hundredth year (1800, 1900, 2100, etc.) should not be counted a leap year, excepting every fourth hundredth, beginning with 2000.

In this way the difference between the civil and the natural year will not amount to a day in 5,000 years. This is called the Gregorian Calendar, and is in use in all civilized lands, with the exception of Russia, Greece, Roumania, and the minor countries belonging to the Greek confession, where they adhere to the old style. This has caused an addition of two other days since the adoption of the calendar of Gregory, which renders it necessary, when a letter is thence addressed to a person in another country, that both the old and the new date should be given, written one above the other.

This is the only change that has been made since the days of the illustrious Julius Caesar.

A Point in Enchere.

"I met two nice gentlemen on the car yesterday," said Miss Esmeralda Longocoffin to Dudley Canesucker.

"What did they say?"

"They didn't say anything. There was one on my right and one on my left. When I got up to get off the car they bowed."

"They bowed, did they? Well, they are rascals."

"How do you know? You didn't see them."

"I know that right and left bowers are knaves."—Texas Siftings.

A Serious Fault.

"What a little delicious vase. It is very old, isn't it?"

"No, madam, it was made recently."

"Ah, what a pity, it is so beautiful."—Texas Siftings.

Still Takes.

"I understand that vaccination is going out of practice and is not so popular as it was."

"Oh, I don't know! It still takes!"—Boston News.

REMNAN STAND RARITIES.

It is a fact that the production of Ceylon tea has increased from 100,000 pounds in 1875 to 68,000,000 pounds in 1891.

A tree was cut in the Puget Sound forest the other day, from which seven cuts were taken without a knot, their combined length being 170 feet. The tree scaled 48,000 feet.

A superstition of this kind is current: Anyone that has an empty purse should be careful that the moon does not shine in it, or else that purse will not have anything in it as long as the moon doth last.

Smelts are so abundant in the waters at Castle Rock, Ore., that a fisherman standing on the shore with a scoop net is able to dip out in a few minutes more than he can carry away. Thousands of pounds of the fish have been taken in this way recently.

The report just issued for the past year on the trade of the consular district of Mozambique states that in the port of Lourenco Marques, with its population of 3,600, there were 743 deaths in the year, or about 200 per 1,000 of the inhabitants.

"It has been estimated," says the Tropical Florida, "that there is in this state 350,000,000 tons of moss hanging on our trees. This, when gathered and cured, is worth 4 cents per pound at our doors. If it is worth 1 cent a pound it would amount to the enormous sum of \$7,000,000."

Graduate students and other students pursuing special lines of investigation in any field in the Leland Stanford, Jr., university are allowed free access to the great Sutor library in San Francisco. This library, founded by Mr. Adolph Sutor, contains now about 200,000 volumes selected with especial reference to the needs of investigators.

A Belfast, Me., shopkeeper hired a clerk and paid him \$4 for the first week. At the end of the second week the clerk was surprised when he received only \$3 and he asked the reason of the cut down. "Why," responded the shopkeeper, "you know more about the business now, and the work must come easier to you." The clerk, fearing a further application of that theory, resigned.

"How does it happen that the Rev. Worldly performs the marriage ceremony for so many old maids?" "Oh, he always asks them in an audible tone if they are of age, and they all like him."

Cora: "Yes, Hettie says that Jack made her a most impassioned declaration—actually threw himself at her feet—." Dora: "Really? Refreshing change, isn't it, when one remembers how often she's thrown herself at his head?"

The emperor and empress of Russia, we are told, not merely superintend, but they direct the education of their children. It is not many years ago that the young grand dukes were punished by being deprived of their pudding after dinner for any slight mistake; and if ever they lost a pencil they were taken to task for such an act of negligence.

A piece of evidence some time back in a Quebec breach-of-promise case was a cuff with an offer of marriage written on it. One night, while the defendant was holding the plaintiff's hand and whispering fervid words, he popped the question on the smooth linen at her wrist. She was sentimental or shrewd enough to keep the article out of the wash.

FUN AND FOLLY.

When a man is rapped in slumber it's generally apt to wake him up.

Somehow it is awfully hard to believe that a hero can be made of the man next door.

Waiter—"Have a bit of spring chicken, sir?" Guest—"Yes, please. And, waiter, make it this spring, please."

When a boy begins to wash his neck without being told it is a sign he is passing into the ordeal of his first love affair.

A story is told of a conductor who seized his wife's nose in his sleep and rang up three fares upon it before her shrieks awoke him.

"I hear that Jiggins has a new phonograph." "Yes, I don't wonder at it. No man could do the amount of talking he does and keep it up without help."

Man from Colorado—"I am studying up on the science of irrigation. Do you know anything of it?" Man from Kentucky—"Why, sir, it is not a science; it is a habit."

First Physician—"Did old Coupon's case yield to your treatment?" Second Physician—"It did. I treated it for six months, and it yielded something like a hundred guineas."

New Boarder—"I s'pose you like boarders who will eat anything that's set before them and not grumble?" Mrs. Slindlet—"Bless you, no. I'd a sight rather they'd grumble and not eat."

Newly Arrived Spirit—"Who was that venerable looking personage that yawned so dismally while I was talking about the tremendous rain they are having on the earth?" Resident Spirit—"That was Noah."

Ambitious Mamma—"Edith, I noticed last night that Mr. De Rich paid you considerable attention. I hope you showed him a proper amount of civility." Ingenious Debutante—"Oh, yes, mamma, I did! I'm sure he knows he can have me for the asking."

Wrathful Suburbanite (who has just moved in)—"Say, if you don't keep your side of this alley cleaner, by hokey, I'll report you to the health officer!" The Other Man—"Go ahead with your report, my friend. I'm the health officer."

ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT.

A ton of gold is worth \$600,000.

A Bank of England note measures five inches by eight inches.

A Georgia shoemaker has made for the use of a customer a pair of shoes with soles fourteen inches long and five and one-half inches wide.

An old restaurant bill, printed in Richmond in January, 1864, gives the following war-time prices in Confederate money: Soup, \$1.50; chicken, \$3.50; roast beef, \$3; ham and eggs, \$3; raw oysters, \$2; coffee, \$2; bread and butter, \$1.50; a bottle of champagne, \$50; a drink of rye whisky, \$2; a bottle of ale, \$12, and a cigar, \$2.

WHY A SUBSCRIBER OF THIS PAPER COULD NOT PAY HER SUBSCRIPTION

WHITE HALL, ILL., May 2, 1892.

Dear Sir:—I am sorry that I have not been able to keep my subscription paid up on my paper, the Akrion City Times, more promptly than I have in the last year. But the reason was this: My husband has been sick just one year, only being able to work about one-half the time until last Oct. 15th, he was compelled to quit work entirely, and did not do any work until about three weeks ago. He again went to the shop and has worked every day since (he is a potter), and he would not be able to work yet if it was not for Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, Kidney, Liver and Bladder Cure, which he saw advertised in your valuable paper with Mr. Cradick's of Gosport, Ind., account of his ailments and his recovery by the use of the Dr. Kilmer Swamp-Root. I wrote to that gentleman and found his statement correct, after which my husband sent and got the medicine and has only taken two bottles and has so much regained his health that he can work every day, and also eat almost anything on any table, which he could not do without giving him such an awful pain in his stomach. He could not even eat one-half of a cracker without suffering untold agony. His trouble was indigestion, liver and kidney trouble. He thinks there never was so wonderful a remedy as the Swamp-Root.

There are others here using it, and all are greatly benefited already, after only using it for a few weeks.

Inclosed you will find \$1 as so much on my subscription. You may please let me know how we are standing financially, and as soon as possible will send you the balance. I mostly take the paper on account of getting the Magazine and Springfield news, where I was born, raised and married. My maiden name was Mishler. But I seldom see any Magazine from Missouri. You could get Miss Allie Munaw from Moberly to act as correspondent. She is well educated, plain writer, good speller, and would give you all the news in due time.

Yours truly, Mrs. D. BOOSE.

AKRON, O., May 1892.

The above letter was set up in this office from the original letter written by Mrs. Boose.

EDITOR AKRON CITY TIMES.

A PRIZE PICTURE PUZZLE.



The above picture contains four faces, the man and his three daughters. Anyone can find the faces of the three young ladies.

The proprietors of Ford's Prize Pills will give an elegant Gold Watch to the first person who can make out the three daughters faces; to the second will be given a pair of genuine Diamond Ear-Rings; to the third a handsome Silk Dress Pattern, 16 yards in any color; to the fourth a Coin Silver Watch, and many other prizes in order of merit. Every competitor must cut out the above puzzle picture, distinguish the three girls' faces by marking a cross with lead pencil on each, and enclose same with fifteen U. S. two-cent stamps for one box of FORD'S PRIZE PILLS, (which will be sent post paid, duty free, addressed to THE FORD PILL COMPANY, Wellington St., Toronto, Can.). The person whose envelope is postmarked first will be awarded the first prize, and the others in order of merit. To the person sending the last correct answer will be given an elegant Gold Watch, of fine workmanship and first-class timekeeper; to the next to the last a pair of genuine Diamond Ear-Rings; to the third to the last a Coin Silver Watch, and many other prizes in order of merit, coming from the last.

WE SHALL GIVE AWAY 100 VALUABLE PREMIUMS (should there be as many sending in correct answers). No charge is made for buying or packing of premiums. The names of the leading prize winners will be published in connection with our advertisement in leading newspapers next month. Extra premiums will be given to those who are willing to assist in introducing our medicine. Nothing is charged for the premium in any way, they are absolutely given away to introduce and advertise Ford's Prize Pills, which are purely vegetable and act gently yet promptly on the Liver, Kidneys and Bowels, dispelling Headache, Fever and Cold, cleansing the system thoroughly and cure habitual constipation. They are sugar-coated, do not grip, very small, easy to take, one pill a dose, and are purely vegetable. Perfect digestion follows their use. As to the reliability of our company, we refer you to any leading wholesale druggist or business house in Toronto. All premiums will be awarded strictly in order of merit and with perfect satisfaction to the public. Pills are sent by mail post paid. When you answer this picture puzzle, kindly mention which newspaper you saw it in. Address THE FORD PILL COMPANY, Wellington St., Toronto, Can.

The world is never interested in a man who talks about his wrongs, or a woman who talks about her rights.

A Cincinnati woman who died recently consumed, it is said, sometimes as many as a dozen packs of cigarettes in a day.

In Germany the law makes servants give a month's notice before leaving. The mistress must give similar notice before a